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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 26 No. 7 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics July 1989

Trend Setters

	Apr'89	May'89
Wyoming		
Labor Force	222,796	224,452
Employment	209,574	210,887
Unemployment	13,222	13,565
Rate (Raw)	5.9	6.0
Rate (S.A.)	5.5	6.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.46	$14.30
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.0	40.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.17	$13.10
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.9	41.9
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	123.1	123.8
Year Change (U.S.)	+5.1	+5.4

In This Issue:

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Wyoming Bankruptcies Declining

BLS Consumer Spending

Weston County - A Ten Year Look

National Employment Situation Changes Little in May

Not much change was noted in the national employment and unemployment picture during May. The civilian unemployment edged down slightly to 5.2 percent from 5.3 percent the previous month.

Nonagricultural payroll employment gained by 100,000 workers in May, seasonally adjusted, and total civilian employment, as measured by the household survey, showed little growth. Results from both series of data suggest the pace of employment growth has moderated in recent months.

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed and the civilian unemployment rate were also little changed in May. There were a total of 6.4 million persons unemployed, compared to 6.8 million in May, 1988 and the unemployment rate at that time stood at 5.6 percent.

Job Expansion Also Slows

Job gains in the service-producing sector have also slowed recently. Wholesale trade employment showed no monthly change in May after a gain of only 10,000 in April, compared to increases of around 20,000 last year. Retail trade has shown little or no growth in the last two months, while employment in the services industry increased by 65,000 in May, which is well below its monthly average of around 110,000 in 1988. In comparison, health services, which picked up 35,000 in May, has been showing steady growth. Another consistent job gainer has been the transportation industry, where a May increase of 15,000 was about average for that industry. Also, finance, insurance and real estate employment continues to show some slight growth.

Wyoming's Unemployment Rate Edges Back Up

Wyoming's unemployment rate edged upward slightly in May, from 5.9 to 6.0 percent seasonally unadjusted, and compares to 5.6 percent in May, 1988. In May there were about 13,600 unemployed, compared to 13,200 the previous month and 13,100 in May last year.

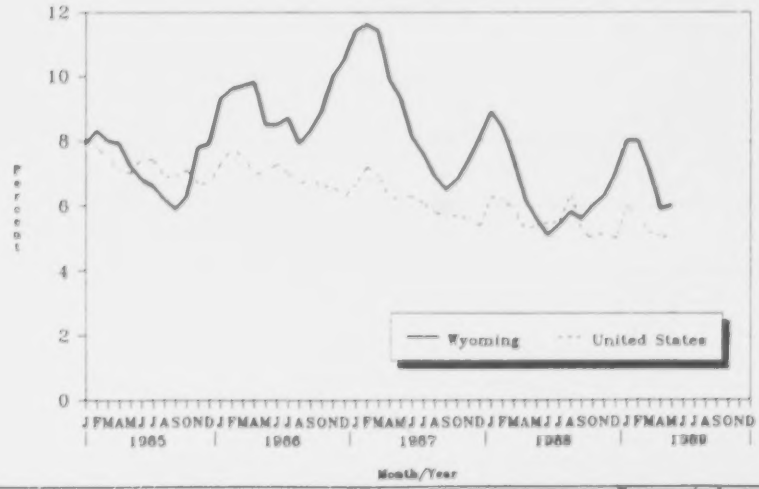
The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment was up sharply in May, to 6.1 percent compared to April's rate of 5.5 percent and 5.6 percent last year.

Latest data available for all states is for April, which shows Wyoming ranked tenth highest in seasonally unadjusted unemployment, with 5.9 percent. Louisiana ranked highest with 9.6 percent and new hampshire was again the lowest, with 2.7 percent. Nebraska was next with 2.8 percent.

Total Labor Force Up From April

Total Labor Force in the state was posted at 224,500 in May, up 1,700 from the April count but remains well below the 232,500 recorded last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1985 - 1989


12
10
8
6
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Percent
Wyoming
United States
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
Month/Year

Wyoming's total employment amounted to 210,900, down 8,500 from a year ago.

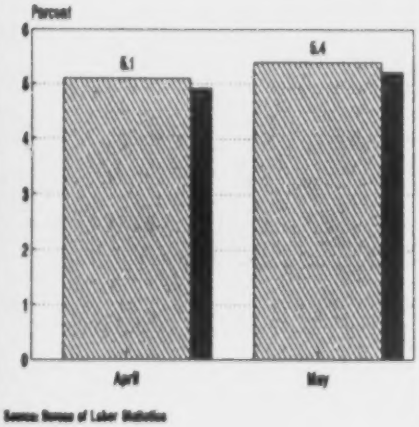
Four counties - Big Horn, Platte, Sheridan and Teton - showed year-to-year increases in their labor force. All the rest showed declining labor forces. Niobrara, Teton and Albany counties had the lowest unemployment, with 2.2, 2.7 and 3.4 percent, respectively. The highest unemployment rate continued to be in Uinta County, with 9.0 percent.

On The Brighter Side

On a more optimistic note, state and local government posted annual employment increases of about 1,700 workers in May and enjoyed a seasonal gain of 900 workers. Accounting for the majority of this increase was street and highway construction. Also notable were the annual employment gains in the trade and services industries during May. They were up 1,200 and 700 workers, respectively. The improvement was concentrated primarily in eating and drinking establishments, up about 700, and hotel and lodging places were up about 500 workers. Wyoming's economic growth patterns apparently are reflecting the national trend of employment growth being concentrated in the service-producing industries.

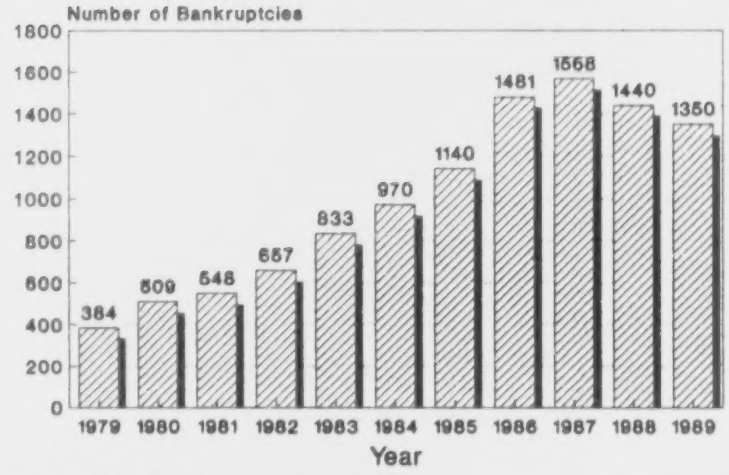
With the exception of manufacturing, the goods-producing industries of mining and construction continued to show annual worker declines throughout the state.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wyoming Bankruptcies
Calendar Years 1979 - 1989
1989 Estimate Based on First Five Months



Source: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Cheyenne

Wyoming Bankruptcies Declining

For 1988 and the first five months of 1989, bankruptcies in Wyoming have declined. This is good news for the state's creditors who have had nine years of increasing numbers of bankruptcies. There were 1,440 bankruptcies in 1988 and there will be an estimated 1,350 in 1989. This is in contrast to the high number recorded in 1987 of 1,568.

The decline in the number of bankruptcies does not necessarily indicate an improving economy, but does suggest that the number of overextended businesses and persons are declining. Many reasons for the decline could be given. For example, agriculture has recently shown a profit, and farmers and ranchers have been able to pay something on their loans. Also many businesses and persons in financial distress in Wyoming have already declared bankruptcy and have left the state. Those of us who are left have withstood the poor economic conditions and have survived.

With a two year trend of declining bankruptcies established, it appears the worst may be over for the credit industry in Wyoming. However, the state has a long way to go before the number of bankruptcies decline to the pre 1980 numbers, of less than 500 annually.

Labor Force Trends Under Construction

Beginning with this issue, the Research and Analysis Section will utilize desktop publishing to design and typeset the *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*. Over the next few months readers may see changes in the publication as it goes though a metamorphosis. The final result will be a reduction of over 50 percent in the cost and in the amount of time needed to construct the *Trends*. Readers should receive the *Trends* about two weeks earlier.

The improvements made to the *Trends* will be over several months as subtle enhancements are made. Should you, our readers see something that you like or dislike concerning its contents or appearance please send us your comments. Our main goal is to provide you with a source of valuable information not found anywhere else and to do it in way that is both attractive and easy to understand.

WESTON, WYOMING

Weston County's 1986 population of 7,900 ranked 18th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME In 1986, Weston had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $11,379. This PCPI ranked 17th in the state, and was 89 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 78 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Weston's PCPI of $6,767 ranked ninth in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 5.3 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME In 1986, Weston had a total personal income (TPI) of $89,349*. This TPI ranked 19th in the state and accounted for 1.4 percent of the state total. In 1976, Weston's TPI of $44,084* ranked 18th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past ten years was 7.3 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY Earnings of persons employed in Weston increased from $33,715* in 1976 to $59,625 in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 5.9 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were mining, which accounted for 18.3 percent of earnings; state and local government, 17.8 percent; and transportation and public utilities, 14.9 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining with 20.6 percent of earnings; transportation and public utilities, 12.8 percent; state and local government, 12.5 percent; and services 12.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least five percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade (10.1 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 4.1 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 9.7 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

Profile of Consumer Spending

Comprehensive information on how various groups of U.S. consumers spend their money was issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data are the first to provide a complete picture of consumer spending by integrating the results of the diary and interview portions of the Bureau's Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Among the findings for the year 1987 are:

On average, about 65 percent of consumer expenditures went for food, housing, and transportation. However, the lowest 20 percent of consumers, as ranked by income, spent 70 percent of their total on these components and upper consumers spent 60 percent. Single-parent households and younger consumers, who tend to be in the lower income groups, also spent about 70 percent for these components.

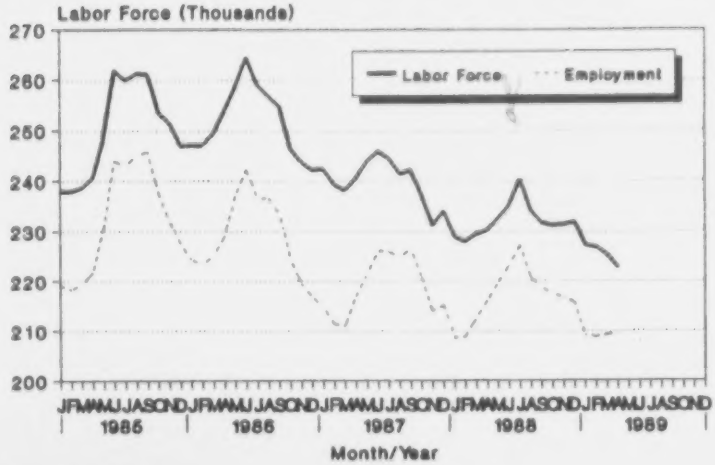
Average annual expenditures rose about two percent from 1986 to 1987, about the same amount as a year earlier. Above average increases were registered for food, apparel and personal care goods and services.

Consumer's transportation expenditures dropped five percent in 1987 due to decreases in vehicle expenditures and in gasoline and motor oil expenditures. A 14 percent decrease in vehicle expenditure in 1987 followed an increase of the same magnitude in 1986. Gasoline and motor oil expenditures decreased despite a four percent increase in gasoline prices as measured by the CPI. As a share of total expenditures, transportation declined slightly to 19 percent.

Food expenditures began to rise in 1987, up six percent from 1986, after showing almost no change a year earlier. Food away from home expenditures continued to increase at a faster rate than food at home, rising eight percent compared to a five percent increase for food at home. As a share of total expenditures, food rose from 14 percent in 1986 to 15 percent in 1987. Prior to 1987, expenditures on food had been declining as a share of total expenditures.

Expenditures on retirement, pensions and Social Security contributions rose about two percent, less than in earlier periods. A rise in Social Security taxes, resulting from the increase in the wage base for Social Security, was offset somewhat by a decrease in contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts. The portion of expenditures remained the same between 1986 and 1987.

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment
1985 - 1989


Labor Force (Thousands)
270
260
250
240
230
220
210
200
Labor Force
Employment
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
Month/Year

Basis does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis.

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	May1989	Annual % change
All Items	123.8	5.4
Food & Beverage	124.7	6.5
Housing	122.1	3.7
Entertainment	125.5	4.8
Apparel & Upkeep	120.4	3.5
Transportation	116.0	7.3
Medical	147.5	7.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statsitics.

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

TABLE 1

ITEM	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS MAY 1989	APRIL 1989	MAY 1988	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. Percent Change From A Month Ago	A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	224,452	222,796	232,508	0.7%	-3.5%
Unemployment	13,565	13,222	13,102	2.6	3.5
Employed Labor Force	210,887	209,574	219,406	0.6	-3.9
a. Covered Employment (Under WY UI Law) [3]	175,300	169,400	175,256	3.5	0.0
b. Agriculture [3]	14,346	13,675	14,209	4.9	1.0
Total Unemployment Rate (WY) Seasonally Adjusted*	6.0% 6.1%*	5.9% 5.5%*	5.6% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U. S.) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.0% 5.2%*	5.1% 5.3%*	5.4% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (WY) [4]	1.9%	2.6%	2.3%	XXX	XXX
HOURS AND EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 579.15	$ 636.24	$617.60	- 9.0%	- 6.2%
Average Weekly Hours	40.5	44.0	42.8	- 8.0	- 5.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.30	$ 14.46	14.43	- 1.1	- 0.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	18,630	20,428	19,394	- 8.8	- 3.9
a. Initial	2,109	2,355	1,936	-10.4	8.9
Weeks Compensated	13,906	15,880	13,029	-12.4	6.7
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,162,134	$ 2,491,024	$ 1,939,046	-13.2	11.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 154.75	$ 156.21	$ 148.50	- 0.9	4.2
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
Total Applications Received During Month	4,033	3,132	N.A.	28.8	XXX
Total Openings Received	3,182	2,708	N.A.	17.5	XXX
Individual Placements	1,447	1,137	N.A.	27.3	XXX
Placement Transactions	2,706	2,120	N.A.	27.6	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS AND EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 548.89	$ 564.99	$ 531.72	- 2.8%	3.2%
Average Weekly Hours	41.9	42.9	42.2	- 2.3	- 0.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.10	$ 13.17	$ 12.60	- 0.5	4.0
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-1984 = 100	123.8	123.1	117.5	0.6	5.4
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-1984 = 100	113.1	112.3	106.5	0.7	6.2
Food and Beverage, 1982-1984 = 100	124.7	124.0	117.1	0.6	6.5

[1] *Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.* [2] *Subject to revision.* [3] *Revised figures.*

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE 2 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE MAY 1989	LABOR FORCE APRIL 1989	LABOR FORCE MAY 1988	% CHANGE APR-MAY	% CHANGE MAY-MAY	UNEMPLOYMENT MAY 1989	UNEMPLOYMENT APRIL 1989	UNEMPLOYMENT MAY 1988	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAY 1989	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE APRIL 1989	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MAY 1988
Statewide	224,452	222,796	232,508	0.7	- 3.5	13,565	13,222	13,102	6.0	5.9	5.6
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									6.1	5.5	5.6
Albany	14,176	14,403	15,562	- 1.6	- 8.9	483	531	523	3.4	3.7	3.4
Big Horn	5,174	5,174	5,015	0.0	3.2	332	341	343	6.4	6.6	6.8
Campbell	14,471	14,566	15,329	- 0.7	- 5.6	1,177	1,128	980	8.1	7.7	6.4
Carbon	6,853	6,764	7,597	1.3	- 9.8	466	445	574	6.8	6.6	7.6
Converse	5,468	5,340	5,703	2.4	- 4.1	386	347	364	7.1	6.5	6.4
Crook	2,823	2,775	2,994	1.7	- 5.7	167	167	164	5.9	6.0	5.5
Fremont	15,777	15,742	15,956	0.2	- 1.1	1,185	1,127	1,172	7.5	7.2	7.3
Goshen	5,784	5,971	6,140	- 3.1	- 5.8	249	290	336	4.3	4.9	5.5
Hot Springs	2,831	2,795	3,020	1.3	- 6.3	141	118	146	5.0	4.2	4.8
Johnson	3,600	3,414	3,647	5.4	- 1.3	163	152	173	4.5	4.5	4.7
Laramie	34,076	34,089	35,233	0.0	- 3.3	1,792	1,712	1,571	5.3	5.0	4.5
Lincoln	5,571	5,414	6,134	2.9	- 9.2	433	499	449	7.8	9.2	7.3
Natrona	29,527	29,640	30,067	- 0.4	- 1.8	1,961	1,886	1,841	6.6	6.4	6.1
Niobrara	1,275	1,264	1,572	0.9	-18.9	28	42	70	2.2	3.3	4.5
Park	12,995	12,453	12,998	4.4	0.0	732	592	647	5.6	4.8	5.0
Platte	4,826	4,683	4,588	3.1	5.2	284	251	235	5.9	5.4	5.1
Sheridan	13,056	12,963	12,609	0.7	3.5	618	568	600	4.7	4.4	4.8
Sublette	2,455	2,424	2,659	1.3	- 7.7	143	164	175	5.8	6.8	6.6
Sweetwater	17,939	17,946	19,051	0.0	- 5.8	1,239	1,257	1,255	6.9	7.0	6.6
Teton	9,083	8,892	9,062	2.1	0.2	249	353	334	2.7	4.0	3.7
Uinta	9,276	8,743	9,764	6.1	- 5.0	832	786	685	9.0	9.0	7.0
Washakie	4,162	4,091	4,474	1.7	- 7.0	299	243	308	7.2	5.9	6.9
Weston	3,252	3,250	3,333	0.1	- 2.4	204	223	155	6.3	6.9	4.7
United States									5.0	5.1	5.4
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.2	5.3	5.6

The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	MAY 1989 [2] TOTAL	APRIL 1989 [3] TOTAL	MAY 1988 TOTAL	APRIL 1989 to MAY 1989	MAY 1988 to MAY 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage and Salary Employment	189.8	185.8	185.6	2.2%	2.3%
Manufacturing	9.1	8.9	8.7	2.3	4.6
Durable Goods	4.1	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.5
Nondurable Goods	5.0	4.9	4.7	2.0	6.4
Petroleum and Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	180.7	176.9	176.9	2.2	2.2
Mining	17.9	17.8	18.5	0.6	- 3.2
Contract Construction	10.2	9.4	10.5	8.5	- 2.9
Transportation and Public Utilities	13.7	13.7	13.3	0.0	3.0
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Transportation except Railroads	5.8	5.8	5.6	0.0	3.6
Communications, Electricity, Gas and Sanitary Services	5.9	5.9	5.8	0.0	1.7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	42.1	41.4	40.9	1.7	2.9
Wholesale Trade	6.9	6.9	6.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	35.2	34.5	34.0	2.0	3.5
Food Stores	5.2	5.2	5.0	0.0	4.0
Automotive Dealers and Service Stations	5.7	5.6	5.4	1.8	5.6
Eating and Drinking Places	13.4	12.9	12.7	3.9	5.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	7.2	7.3	7.2	- 1.4	0.0
Services	33.2	32.1	32.5	3.4	2.2
Personal Services	1.8	1.9	1.8	- 5.3	0.0
Medical and Other Services	7.0	6.9	6.9	1.5	1.5
Government	56.4	55.2	54.0	2.2	4.4
Federal Government	8.3	8.0	7.6	3.8	9.2
State and Local Government	48.1	47.2	46.4	1.9	3.7
State Government	14.5	14.3	13.7	1.4	5.8
Local Government	33.6	32.9	32.7	2.1	2.8

See footnotes at end of table

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3 (Continued) (Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	MAY 1989 [2] TOTAL	APRIL 1989 [3] TOTAL	MAY 1988 TOTAL	APRIL 1989 to MAY 1989	MAY 1988 to MAY 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage and Salary Employment	27.7	27.1	27.0	2.2%	2.6%
Manufacturing	1.5	1.4	1.3	7.1	15.4
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum and Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	-25.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.2	25.7	25.7	2.0	2.0
Mining	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.9	0.0
Oil and Gas Extraction	2.5	2.4	2.5	4.2	0.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.5	1.5	6.7	6.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	7.8	7.7	7.6	1.3	2.6
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.1	0.0	4.8
Retail Trade	5.6	5.5	5.5	1.8	1.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Government	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State and Local Government	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.7
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage and Salary Employment	30.4	29.8	30.2	2.0%	0.7%
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.1	28.5	28.9	2.1	0.7
Contract Construction	1.4	1.3	1.6	7.7	-12.5
Transportation and Public Utilities	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.5	7.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	6.9	6.8	6.9	1.5	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.1	6.0	6.1	1.7	0.0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services	5.5	5.5	5.5	0.0	0.0
Government	10.5	10.2	10.2	2.9	2.9
Federal Government	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.7	3.7
State and Local Government	7.7	7.5	7.5	2.7	2.7

[1] *Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.* [2] *Subject to revision.* [3] *Revised figures.*

RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO
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P. O. BOX 2760
CASPER, WYOMING 82602

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

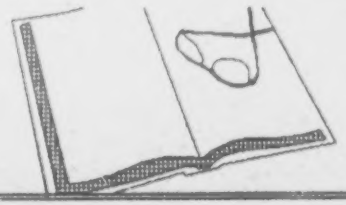
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

U.S. MAIL

T0155
Congressional Information Service, Inc.
4520 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

For
QUALIFIED WORKERS
Call
Job Service of Wyoming

Wyoming
Labor Market Information



W Y O M I N G
LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** is published by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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